

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-23. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended herein, and new claim 24 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-24 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112¶1:

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶1, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The features recited in claims 22 and 23 are described at least at pages 8, line 9 through page 9, line 4; page 12, line 9 through page 13, line 3, and FIGS. 2, 3 and 5 of the present application. For example, electronic messages delivered via the mail delivery unit (22) may be put into a mailbox (24) or an unwanted-mail mailbox (25) in accordance with information related to the electronic messages (see, FIG. 1). More specifically, the present invention categorically delivers messages to a mailbox or to an unwanted-mail mailbox based on stored sender information.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that features of claims 22 and 23 are supported by the present application.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,351,764 (Voticky).

Voticky prioritizes messages based on predetermined priority assigned to sources of the messages (see, col. 2, lines 2-9 and col. 3, line 61 through col. 4, line 6). Voticky stores identifiers of messages in a database provided to a client system and allows a user of the client system to assign a priority code to messages expected to be received (see, col. 4, lines 14-24 and 55-62) for sorting incoming messages in accordance with the user predefined priority codes (see, col. 4, lines 3-6 and FIG. 4). That is, Voticky is limited to specifying the **order** in which incoming messages are presented to a user and does not address, for example, a case where a particular message from an unidentified source needs to be delivered to a user.

The present invention delivers messages that have previously registered senders to a user while allowing the user to browse through contents of all other messages that have unregistered senders and subsequently register a sender(s) of the browsed messages, if

needed. For example, a user is able to browse through contents of rejected or unwanted electronic messages (i.e., messages that do not have previously registered senders) and register sender information of the rejected electronic messages such that messages subsequently sent from these senders are delivered to the user.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 as amended recite, “temporarily holding every electronic message except said last-named electronic message so as to be browsed by the user from said terminal”, “setting a link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list”, and “registering the sender information in said permitted-sender list”.

Independent claims 22 and 23 recite that the present invention includes “categorizing the electronic message in accordance with stored sender information” and “automatically transmitting a notification related to the categorized electronic message to a terminal” such that a user is able to “link sender data of the categorized electronic mail to the stored sender information while browsing contents of the electronic message”.

Voticky does not teach or suggest, “temporarily holding every electronic message except said last-named electronic message so as to be browsed by the user” including setting “a link between said sender information and said permitted-sender list”, thereby allowing the sender information to be registered in the permitted-sender list, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

Voticky does not teach or suggest, “enabling a user of the terminal to link sender data of the categorized electronic mail to the stored sender information while browsing contents of the electronic message”, as recited in claims 22 and 23.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Voticky.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims depending from the independent claims are also patentably distinguishable over Voticky. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 2, 11 and 20, “notifying the user that an electronic message has been held in said message holder, if said message holder holds the last-named electronic message therein”. Voticky does not teach or suggest these features of claims 2, 11 and 20.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 24 is added to recite that the present invention enables “a user to browse

through contents of the electronic messages in the second mailbox" and includes "delivering a selected electronic message in the second mailbox to the first mailbox responsive to the user registering sender information of the selected electronic mail while browsing through the electronic messages in the second mailbox".

Voticky is limited to specifying the order in which incoming messages are presented and does not teach the features recited in new claim 24.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 24 is patentably distinguishable over Voticky.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

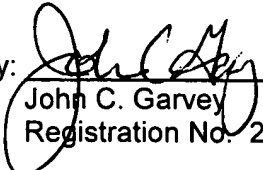
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10-6-05

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